

# City College News

September, 1984

George Brown



The City College

## 66% ratify new support contract

Support staff at George Brown, and at community colleges across Ontario, have ratified a new one-year contract that calls for average wage increases of 4.8 per cent.

In voting on Sept. 17, 66 per cent of George Brown employees who cast ballots favoured ratification.

Across the province, 77 per cent of voting support staff ratified the contract.

According to the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) changes in the new collective agreement include:

- Hourly wage increases of 2.4 per cent and 25 cents that result in total increases that vary between 3.6 and 5.8 per cent depending on pay scale.
- A new clause in which colleges agree to give preference to full-time positions over part-time, and commit themselves to converting some part-time jobs to full-time positions when feasible.
- Increased notice and severance pay in case of layoffs.
- Investigation by a joint union-management committee of job placement opportunities for employees who lose their jobs because their work has been given to outside contractors, including placement with the contractor.
- Representation by union officials of employees complaining of sexual harassment.
- A change from the 1981 schedule for dental reimbursement to the 1983 schedule.
- Small increases in shift premiums and allowance for footwear, meals and eyeglasses.
- Agreement on the new contract was reached less than 24 hours before the old contract was due to expire at the end of August.

Support staff were represented at the bargaining table by a team of OPSEU members and officials.

Continued on page 2.

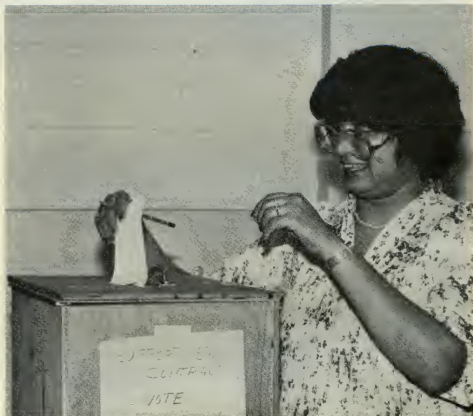


Photo: Albert L.

Monica Persaud of the St. James Admissions Office casts her ballot in the support staff vote on Sept. 17. Staff at George Brown voted 66 per cent in favour of ratifying a new one-year contract.

## Faculty reject Regents' contract offer

George Brown faculty have joined their colleagues from across Ontario in rejecting a contract offer from the Council of Regents.

The rejection means that if mediation fails to resolve the dispute, a strike could be held on Oct. 2 and a strike could legally start on Oct. 17.

In voting on Sept. 18, 555 members (93 per cent) of Local 556 of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) rejected the offer and 38 (6 per cent) accepted it.

Province-wide, 95 per cent of voting faculty at all of Ontario's 22 community colleges rejected the offer.

OPSEU staff negotiator Grant Bruce said before the vote that he was expecting an "overwhelming" rejection by membership of the offer from the Council of

Regents, the provincial body that represents employer colleges in negotiations.

The one-page offer consists of four clauses that limit the term of the agreement to one year ending on Aug. 31, 1985, allow five per cent wage increases, eliminate references to maximum weekly teaching hours and maximum annual contract days, and express the willingness of the Council to discuss other issues with the union.

Faculty have been working without a contract since the last one — which lasted two years — expired at the end of August.

Negotiations to reach a new agreement began in early summer and continued — with a holiday in July — until Aug. 28 when a mediator was appointed. Two days of mediation led to the offer.



Photos: Neil McGillivray

## GB III: Before and after

*There were a lot of offers to buy 60 Colonial Drive in Scarborough at the end of August — but the owner, the Ontario Housing Corporation, wasn't selling. The fire-damaged bungalow — which is rented — was completely renovated over the summer in a co-operative project between the Corporation, George Brown, and the Ministry of Housing. Material donations to the project by industry earned several thousand dollars for the Construction Management Program Scholarship fund. Program students John Cursio, Pierre LeBlond, Robert Strand, and Dominic Raso worked on the house — dubbed George Brown III — under the supervision of program graduate Gary Clarkson.*

## United Way campaign is postponed

The extension of union contract negotiations into the fall has postponed what was to have been George Brown's first united United Way campaign.

As planned, the campaign would have involved administrators and members of both faculty and support staff unions in a

vigorous canvassing effort to raise money for the umbrella charity organization.

The campaign was to have started in September with a goal of raising more than \$30,000.

The full campaign was cancelled when negotiations for new contracts between faculty and support staff unions and the college system extended into mid-September and October.

"It would be better to run it when negotiations are finished," said Math and Science Dean Dr. Bob Gwilliam, who helped organize the campaign.

The campaign has been tentatively rescheduled for spring, but no dates have been set, he said.

Gwilliam said the campaign was to have been the first joint union-management effort at a community college in Ontario.

As planned, the campaign would have involved canvassers speaking individually to their colleagues with the goal of having them contribute a dollar per paycheque to the organization.

In past years, the College did not raise substantial amounts of money with its letter campaigns, he said.

Gwilliam said that George Brown is involved with about half of the United Way agencies in Toronto in various ways, and individuals at the College are active in many more.

## Building donations half way there

Ontario's hospitality industry has committed \$800,000 towards the cost of a new building to house George Brown's hospitality programs.

Fund-raising this fall is expected to bring in the additional \$700,000 needed to start construction of the four-story building near St. James Campus.

The private donations — usually from large companies in the industry — are the last element of financing needed for the \$9-million building. Federal and provincial government pledges totalling \$7.5 million are contingent on industry contributing \$1.5 million.

College President Doug Light said that the \$700,000 should be collected in the next few months.

"I'm cautiously optimistic.... We're hoping to reach our goal by the start of December."

The fund-raising campaign, which started in April, is being carried out by the Ontario Hostelry Institute, a private group made up of College, government and industry officials that advises the provincial government on hospitality training.

While the Institute has carried out mass-mailings to companies in the industry, personal contact by members of a fund-raising committee have proved most effective, Light said.

One of the companies involved, American Express, will make a contribution based on the number of restaurant meals bought with the company's credit cards, he said.

The only publicly announced donation so far was one of \$125,000 made by Schenley Canada Ltd. in March.

As now planned, the brick-front building will house the College's full-time programs in hospitality training, and will provide space for new post-diploma programs to train executive and head chefs.

If the fund-raising campaign this fall is successful, work on the College owned site on Adelaide Street — currently used for parking — could start early in 1985. The building could be ready for students by mid-1986.

## Contract ratified

**Continued from page 1.**

Employer colleges were represented by a team appointed by the Council of Regents, the governing body for community colleges in Ontario.

Speaking to support staff at George Brown before the ratification vote, union negotiator Bette Egri said the contract was "minimally acceptable."

A 55 per cent strike vote on Aug. 14 — that included 10 of 22 colleges voting against a strike — weakened the union's position, she said.

"We weren't walking in with much power to bargain with."

The union was seeking higher wage increases and stronger limits on part-time and contract employment, Egri said.

Of the 267 members of OPSEU Local 557 at George Brown who cast votes on Sept. 17, 17 favoured ratification and 88 opposed it.

## Post-secondary enrolment up 4%

A four per cent increase in post-secondary enrolment is a lot better than it sounds, says George Brown's Registrar Dr. Garry Watson.

Only five of the 16 community colleges polled recently had any growth in enrolment this fall, and the declines at some colleges were dramatic, he says.

"Compared to other colleges, George Brown has done very well."

By the middle of September, a total of 5,841 students had enrolled at the College, 3,400 of them doing so for the first time.

Enrolment increased substantially from last year in programs in Business, Fashion, Graphic Arts and Hospitality, and slightly in Architectural Technology.

The number of students enrolled in Electro-Mechanical and Performing Arts programs declined.

Enrolment in Health Science programs, where the number of students is set by provincial government quotas, has not changed from the 1,200 in programs last year.

Streamlined procedures in the Registrar's department this summer, including a large mail-in registration campaign starting in July, made things easier this year for both staff and students, Watson said.

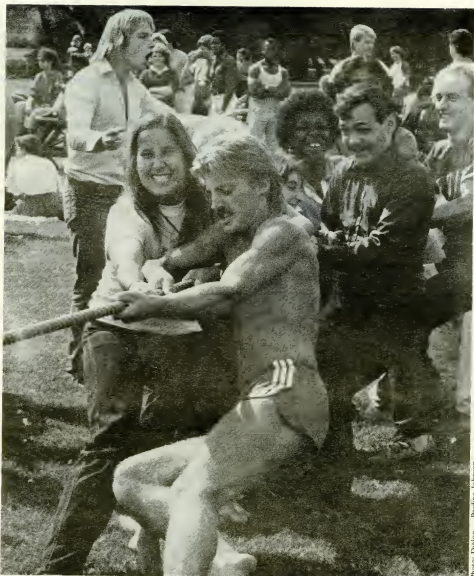
The new procedures also permitted earlier identification of enrolment trends allowing the College to boost enrolment in some programs late in the summer with a special advertising campaign, he said.

"The last minute campaign really brought up the numbers."

Another problem that will be tackled in the next year is the large number of prospective students who choose not to come to George Brown after sending in their applications, Watson said.

Of the 19,000 applications received by the College for programs starting this fall, 2,500 were rejected because applicants weren't qualified, and 10,000 were cancelled because the applicant went to another institution or decided not to come to college at all, he said.

College staff will be looking for ways to reduce the number of cancelled applications and increase enrolment, Watson said.



*Sometimes you need a friend with pull — About 300 students from all George Brown campuses got together at Centre Island on Sept. 7 to eat hot dogs, listen to a rock band and hold a mini-olympics including 100-yard dash, egg toss, wheelbarrow race and tug-of-war.*

## Low-energy housing course developed

What's good news for the Math and Science Division may be bad news for oil companies and government power monopolies.

In addition to its Energy Conversion program — which encourages the use of alternative energy instead of oil, gas or conventionally produced electricity — the Division is now developing a part-time course on low energy housing.

The provincial Ministry of Energy is giving the College \$15,000 to help start up the new course, Casa Loma Applied Studies Chairman Jack Hague said.

Division administrators are also exploring the possibility of establishing links with the Toronto Board of Educa-

tion and other post-secondary institutions to help train students in low and alternative energy technology.

## TUP extended

The provincial government has extended funding for the Technical Upgrading Program (TUP) until the spring of 1985.

The continuous-intake program, which has been providing tuition-free upgrading in mathematics, English and Science at Casa Loma since it began in the fall of 1983, is now under the direction of English and Liberal Studies Chairman John Taylor.

Recruiting for the program has recently been boosted with a brochure using the line "Didn't finish school? George Brown College offers you a second chance."

# Names in the News



*Upgrading instructor Betty McWhinnie recently returned from a year of teaching English to scientists, who are headed for post-graduate study abroad, at the Shanghai Foreign Languages Institute. She is shown above with economists Peng Chao Yang (left) and Li Yin-Zhu. The experience was "wonderful," says McWhinnie. "I mean to return as soon as I retire." In the meantime, McWhinnie has returned to teaching duties at COSTI, and is collecting stamps to send to collector friends in China.*

Nursing Chairman **Heidi Yamashita** put her first aid skills to use in early September when a nursing student was hit by a car while crossing Adelaide Street from St. James. With the help of a fellow passerby, Yamashita helped stop bleeding and cover the student before an ambulance — called by Continuing Education Dean **Bob Struthers** — arrived. The student suffered a mild concussion and was released after over-night observation at St. Michael's Hospital. Yamashita said accelerating traffic on the street poses a danger to students who shuttle between St. James and Adelaide Street buildings. "We have classes of 130 moving back and forth."

A happier duty for **Heidi Yamashita** was representing Canada at the recent international bi-annual convention of the Soroptimists, a women's service club. Yamashita is president of the Toronto chapter of the organization.

Four people recently retired from George Brown after many years of service. *City College News* takes a look at their careers with the College and their plans for the future.

**David Cowman**, who retired recently after teaching mathematics and science for 26 years, always enjoyed meeting former students. Most said they found their education at the College useful — with the exception of calculus. No one used calculus, he recalls. "Not even the engineers." Cowman started teaching at the Adult Education Centre on College Street in 1956, later moving up to Casa Loma and a position with the Upgrading program. Now Cowman keeps busy maintaining his house and volunteering with Meals on Wheels. "It keeps me out of trouble," he says.

**Ed Read** looks back fondly on the decade he spent as an instructor in the Electro-Mechanical Division at George Brown. "They were the most satisfying years of my life," he says. Read joined the College in 1975 after spending most of his working life in the machine tool and engineering business. He taught numerical control to begin with, then switched to the tool-making program, where he was co-ordinator for the last two years. Read now lives on 125 acres near Mallorytown in the 1,000 Islands.

**Marg Romano** is going straight from George Brown to paradise — at least that's how she puts it. Shortly after retiring from her position as Admissions Officer in the Registrar's Department in September, Romano flew down to Bermuda for a holiday. "It's a little bit of heaven," she says of the Caribbean Island. Romano grew up in Coburg and came to Toronto to study at St. Michael's School of Nursing, where she graduated in 1943. She stayed at the hospital until 1973 when the school amalgamated with George Brown. She has nothing but praise for her colleagues at '500'. "They are a very fine group."

**Nancy Tyrrell** isn't slowing down with retirement. If anything she seems to be speeding up, her College Street colleagues say. The former English as a Second Language teacher, who has been active in politics for many years, is now considering volunteer teaching in Cuba, she says. "She doesn't seem like 65," says Language Training Chairman **Marsha Allen**. "She's got a lot of energy." Tyrrell started teaching with the Toronto Board of Education in 1965, and has taught ESL since joining the College in 1969.

The Personnel Office has told us of the following staff changes:

Joining the French Centre at College Street as new Development Officer is **Charles Aubin**. **Ellen DeBoer** is a new member of Kensington's support staff in the Hospitality Division; **Norine Love** is a newcomer to the library staff there. **Marsha Lester** has joined the support staff of the Industrial Training Division on Adelaide Street, and **Kristine Morrill** is a new staffer in the Personnel Department.

**Ella McCullough** has left a position with the Registrar's Office to be secretary to Vice-President **Ken MacLennan**, and **Bonnie Weglarz** has left the Health Sciences Division to become Associate Registrar.

**Lori Homewood**, secretary in the English and Liberal Studies Division at St. James is now **Lori Blacoe**, and **MacPherson** bookstores clerk **Rose Hudson** is now **Rose Morency**.

Leaving the College are **Gudrun Bartolomeo**, **Patrick Clarke**, **David Cowman**, **Brenda Hegan**, **Roy Hintze**, **Douglas LaPorte**, **Shirley Lesch**, **Helen McIlwraith**, **Edwin Read**, **Primo Steffan**, **Liza Suhanic** and **Nancy Tyrrell**. (See items on this page about retirees Cowman, Read and Tyrrell.)

## City College News

City College News is a monthly publication of the Continuing Education and Marketing Division of George Brown College at 258 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario, M5A 1N1. (416) 967-1212, ext. 3240. Editor: Kadi Kaljaste, Writer: Neil McGillivray.

The next issue of *City College News* will be published on Oct. 18. The deadline for submissions is Oct. 4.